

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fabric having a fabric caliper, said fabric comprising one or more guides made of a guide material attached to machine direction edges of a wear surface of the fabric so as to encapsulate approximately fifty percent or more of the fabric caliper with the guide material in a region where the guide is attached to the fabric.
2. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said encapsulation is the primary mechanism that attaches the fabric and guide.
3. (Currently Amended) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is attached to the fabric by melting of the guide, to a sufficient depth, to encapsulate fifty percent or more of the fabric-structure caliper.
4. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 3, wherein the melted guide encapsulates the fabric so to create a composite upon solidification.
5. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein a bond strength between the fabric and the guide is equal to the tear strength of either the fabric or the guide material alone.
6. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric is of a construction taken from the group consisting essentially of woven, or nonwoven, such as spiral-link, MD or CD yarn arrays, knitted, extruded mesh, or material strips which are ultimately spiral wound to form a substrate having a width greater than a width of the strips.

7. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric is permeable or impermeable.
8. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric comprises metal, synthetic, or natural filaments, fibers or yarns.
9. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is one of meltable thermoplastic, extrudable thermoplastic, or a thermoset.
10. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 9, wherein crosslinking of the thermoset is achieved by at least one of room temperature, UV, moisture, or heat.
11. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is a cross-linkable polymer with sufficient viscosity to maintain its shape during a curing process.
12. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein crosslinking is achieved by at least one of room temperature, UV, moisture, or heat.
13. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is meltable thermoplastic impregnated into the fabric under pressure while using a shaped pulley to maintain guide dimensions.
14. (Original) A belt in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is substantially v-shaped.
15. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 14, wherein the v-guide has one of a flat, hi-ridged and ribbed top.
16. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said fabric with attached guides is used as a belt in industrial applications.

17. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said fabric comprises two guides at respective edges of the fabric.
18. (Previously Presented) A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said fabric has a top surface coating that encapsulates approximately fifty percent or less of the fabric caliper.
19. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 18, wherein a coating thickness above a surface plane of the fabric is in the range of 0 to 4 mm.
20. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 18, wherein the coating comprises one of polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, silicone rubber, and synthetic rubber.
21. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 20, wherein said synthetic rubber is one of nitrile and styrene butadiene rubber.
22. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 18, wherein stuffers are used to control the depth of penetration of the coating.
23. (Original) A fabric in accordance with claim 22, wherein said stuffers are rectangular.